

Exhibit 9

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From the YakimaHerald.com Online News.

Publicizing petition signers will bring nothing but trouble

Gay-rights debate

Yakima Herald-Republic

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The following editorial appears in the June 9, 2009, Yakima Herald-Republic.

This summer will find workers for Referendum 71 setting up tables outside grocery stores and malls in the hopes of collecting enough signatures for a public vote to overturn expanded domestic partnerships for same-sex couples.

The petition drive follows passage by lawmakers earlier this year of an "everything but marriage" measure that added domestic partners to all remaining areas of state law where only married couples are mentioned. The extended benefits include sick leave to care for a partner, group insurance policies and adoption and child custody rights.

What will also be evident later this summer is a move by gay-rights supporters to publish online the names of people who sign the Referendum 71 petitions. While the signatures of those who sign petitions for statewide measures have always been publicly available, the state has never published them.

That will change if WhoSigned.Org backers follow through on their promise to publish these names on the Internet. They have not yet decided if the list will also include addresses.

The gay-rights supporters argue they are doing so in an effort to engage these petition signatories in a friendly debate, not harassment.

While we hope that becomes the case, we doubt it will. We see this only as a means of coarsening the debate.

Go ahead and conduct public forums and distribute information through print media and over the airways.

But confronting those on an individual basis who willingly sign a petition has all the makings for bitter confrontation. We don't find that edifying at all.

** Members of the Yakima Herald-Republic editorial board are Michael Shepard, Spencer Hatton and Karen Troianello.*

